

**To:** Cooper, William[Cooper.William@epa.gov]  
**From:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 3:37:41 PM  
**Subject:** RE: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

Is the site live?

4

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool

Public Affairs Specialist/Media Officer

Office of Communications and Public Involvement

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

Office 303.312.6077

Cell 303.501.4027

**From:** Cooper, William  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 9:11 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia; Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Cc:** Faulk, Libby  
**Subject:** RE: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

Sorry, everyone. They've messed with our network protocols. Try this link. You'll need to log in with your LAN credentials:

**Nonresponsive**

**From:** Mylott, Richard  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 8:51 AM

**To:** Cooper, William  
**Cc:** Peterson, Cynthia; Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Subject:** Re: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

I'm off today but trying to help. Out of cell range soon. Not sure of Lisa status but Cynthia and Paula can help.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2015, at 8:49 AM, "Cooper, William" <[Cooper.William@epa.gov](mailto:Cooper.William@epa.gov)> wrote:

I expect Rich will contact me when he gets in.

**From:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 8:48 AM  
**To:** Cooper, William; Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby  
**Cc:** Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

OK, I'll check with Paula about how to proceed.

Cynthia Peterson  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
Public Affairs and Community Involvement  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII  
1595 Wynkoop St. (8OC-PAI)  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
303-312-6879 -- direct dial

**From:** Cooper, William

**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 8:43 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia; Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby  
**Cc:** Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

The page Tim built is still draft—not yet published. I can't link to it until it is published.

## Nonresponsive

**From:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 7:43 AM  
**To:** Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby  
**Cc:** Cooper, William; Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

Might be best to just link to Tim's page. I'll follow up with Bill as well.

Cynthia Peterson

Community Involvement Coordinator

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII

1595 Wynkoop St. (8OC-PAI)

Denver, CO 80202-1129

303-312-6879 -- direct dial

**From:** Smith, Paula  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 7:33 AM  
**To:** Faulk, Libby

**Cc:** Peterson, Cynthia; Cooper, William; Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** Re: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

Will do

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2015, at 7:31 AM, Faulk, Libby <[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov](mailto:Faulk.Libby@epa.gov)> wrote:

Also check in with Tim as he's set up a webpage as I understand regarding the release. We need to make sure the two sites have information that don't conflict with each other.

Libby Faulk, Program Manager

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

US EPA, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

[faulk.libby@epa.gov](mailto:faulk.libby@epa.gov)

303-312-6083

**From:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 7:28 AM  
**To:** Cooper, William  
**Cc:** Mylott, Richard; Faulk, Libby  
**Subject:** FW: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

Hi, Bill.

Could you post this statement on the Upper Animas webpage? I'll send you updates as

I have them.

Thanks!

Cynthia Peterson

Community Involvement Coordinator

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII

1595 Wynkoop St. (8OC-PAI)

Denver, CO 80202-1129

303-312-6879 -- direct dial

**From:** Mylott, Richard

**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:11 PM

**To:** Wharton, Steve; Peterson, Cynthia; Faulk, Libby; Christensen, Stanley; Way, Steven; Griswold, Hays; Murray, Bill; Hestmark, Martin

**Subject:** FW: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

Fyi, current statement. Rich

**From:** Mylott, Richard

**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:02 PM

**To:** Saldenha, Jasmine; Logan, Paul

**Subject:** RE: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

**Updated—**

**August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release**

# **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

**From:** Mylott, Richard

**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:20 AM

**To:** Saldenha, Jasmine; Logan, Paul

**Subject:** FW: EPA statement on Gold King mine release

**From:** Mylott, Richard

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 5:05 PM  
**To:** '[editor@silvertonstandard.com](mailto:editor@silvertonstandard.com)'  
**Subject:** EPA statement on Gold King mine release

Hi Mark—hope this reaches you. Wanted to share EPA statement regarding today's release.

Regards,

Rich Mylott

USEPA Region 8

303-312-6654

#### **EPA Statement**

This morning at approximately 10:30 am, an EPA and State Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment has notified water users downstream of the release so they can take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes. The Town of Silverton does not take water out of

the affected portions of Cement Creek. Due to current and longstanding water quality impairment associated with heavy metals there are no fish populations in the Cement Creek watershed and populations in the Animas River have historically been impaired for several miles downstream of Silverton. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users.

“This unfortunate incident underscores the very reason EPA and the State of Colorado are focused on addressing the environmental risks at abandoned mine sites,” said David Ostrander, director of EPA’s emergency response program in Denver. “We are thankful that the personnel working on this mine cleanup project were unharmed. EPA will be assessing downstream conditions to ensure any impacts and concerns are addressed, as necessary.”